

Serial No. 10/682,362
60130-1911
01MRA0542

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to because of the word "any." Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to delete this word.

Claims 11-13 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that in Claims 11-13, it is not clear if the limitation "parallel" should be "co-planar" to be more consistent with the disclosure. As shown in Figure 3 and described in paragraphs 30 and 34, the parallel inner regions 29a of the first wedge arrangement and the parallel planar regions 57a and 57b of the second wedge arrangement are "parallel" and not "co-planar." "Parallel" is the correct term to describe the regions. Claim 20 has been amended to recite that the latch includes the mouth.

Claims 1-5, 11-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,069,491 to Weinerman. Claims 1-5 and 11-13 are not anticipated. Weinerman does not disclose a latch assembly including a striker and a wedge arrangement provided longitudinally with respect to a striker bar axis at a first striker bar end region and a second striker bar end region as claimed. Weinerman discloses a latch assembly 900 including a pair of wedge blocks 1022 and 1024 mounted on end regions 1012 and 1014 to define a pair of tapered or inclined wedge surfaces 1032 and 1034 that face inwardly on opposite sides of a bracket 1010 to receive and engage tapered or inclined surfaces 912 and 914 of a latch bracket side plate 626 (column 20, line 20 to column 21, line 4 and Figure 16). As shown in Figure 16, the inclined wedge surfaces 1032 and 1034 are not provided at the end regions of the striker pin 14 as claimed, but are rather provided to the side of the striker pin 14. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14-16 and 18-19 are also not anticipated by Weinerman. Weinerman does not disclose a latch including inwardly facing first and second abutment surfaces as claimed. In Weinerman, the inclined surfaces 912 and 914 are outwardly facing, as shown in Figure 15. Weinerman does not disclose that the inclined surfaces 912 and 914 are inwardly facing. Weinerman does not disclose the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 20 is also not anticipated by Weinerman. Weinerman does not disclose a striker having a striker bar encircled by sheet metal to provide a first planar surface and a second planar

Serial No. 10/682,362
60130-1911
01MRA0542

surface as claimed. Weinerman discloses a striker pin 14 having a cylindrical receiving portion 1002 that extends between an enlarged end region 1004 and an enlarged mounting flange 1006 (column 2, lines 56 to 58). As shown in Figure 16, the regions 1004 and the flange 1006 do not encircle the striker pin 14. Sheet metal does not encircle the striker pin 14 of Weinerman. Claim 20 is not anticipated by Weinerman.

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,064,229 to Hamada. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are not anticipated. Hamada does not disclose a wedge arrangement provided longitudinally at both ends of a striker bar as claimed. Hamada discloses a rod 61 of a striker bar 8. As shown in Figure 8, the upper and lower surfaces of the rod 61 of the striker bar 8 (which the Examiner calls the second wedge arrangement) are not provided longitudinally with respect to the axis of the striker bar 8 at the ends of striker bar 8. As shown in Figure 8, the rod 61 is only provided at one end of the striker bar 8, not at both ends of the striker bar 8. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14-19 are also not anticipated by Hamada. Hamada does not disclose a wedge arrangement provided laterally of and on both sides of a latch bolt as claimed. Hamada discloses inner walls 66 and 70 (which the Examiner calls the first wedge arrangement). The inner walls 66 and 70 are not provided laterally of and on both sides of the latch 3. Instead, the inner walls 66 and 70 are provided on only one side of the latch 3, as further shown in Figures 5 and 8. Hamada does not anticipate the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 20 is also not anticipated Hamada. Hamada does not disclose a striker having a striker bar encircled by sheet metal to provide a first planar surface and a second planar surface as claimed. Hamada discloses a striker 8. However, the striker 8 is not encircled by a metal plate. Therefore, Claim 20 is not anticipated by Hamada, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11, 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,165,112 to Kleefeldt. Kleefeldt does not disclose a latch assembly including a wedge arrangement provided laterally of and on both sides of a latch bolt as claimed. Kleefeldt discloses a blight 12 that rests tightly against guide surfaces 8 (column 3, lines 44 to 47) to hold a door shut. As shown in Figure 4, the guide surfaces 8 are provided on only side of a latch fork 2

Serial No. 10/682,362
60130-1911
01MRA0542

and not on both sides of the latch fork 2. Kleefelt does not disclose a latch including wedge arrangement on both sides of a latch bolt as claimed, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. \$100.00 for two additional dependent claims in excess of twenty. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

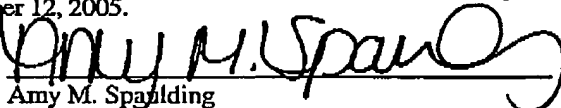


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on September 12, 2005.


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